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National Safety Month 2020 Leader Talking Points

Week 1: Emergency Preparedness

- COVID-19 has shown that emergencies come in many forms, and Soldiers and families should always be prepared.
- Hurricane season begins 1 June, and Army installations along the nation's coasts are at risk.
- Soldiers and families within "Traditional" Tornado Alley across the Great Plains and "Dixie Alley" in the South should have basic safety equipment on hand in the event of storms: NOAA weather radio, helmets and air horns for each member of the family, and hard-soled shoes. Never rely on an outdoor siren for tornado warnings.
- Forecasting lead time for severe storms ranges from a few minutes (tornadoes) to a couple days (hurricanes, snowstorms and floods), and competition for critical supplies peaks during this time. It is better to keep a stocked emergency kit year-round than wait to see if a storm will come your way.

Week 2: Driving

- June-August is the deadliest time of year for Army PMV-4 mishaps, and the easing of COVID-19 restrictions could compound already existing hazards if Soldiers are too eager to "make up" lost time.
- The top causal factors in PMV-4 mishaps are speeding, alcohol and non-use of seat belts, followed closely by fatigue.
- Sedans are the most common vehicle type in PMV-4 mishaps, with cadets through E-4 the most involved Soldier demographic. Most off-duty vehicle mishaps occur between 5 p.m. Friday and 5 a.m. Monday, i.e., the weekend period.
- Leaders should counsel their Soldiers on proper trip planning, inspect vehicles and review leave and pass plans and policies. Soldiers should make a plan, reassess risk as necessary and slow down to ensure a safe trip.

Week 3: Ergonomics

- Ergonomics is the study and prevention of work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WMSD).
- During 2018, 53 percent of Soldiers reported a new musculoskeletal injury, and material handling was the No. 1 cause of civilian injury claims for Department of the Army civilians during 2017, outpacing slips, trips and falls and motor vehicle mishaps.
- The single-most important mitigation measure leaders can take to help prevent WMSD is committing to and maintaining a functioning ergonomics program at all levels of management.

Week 4: Safety Culture

- Safety culture is the sum of a workforce's beliefs, perceptions and attitudes about safety and their leaders' management of risk.
- Army Readiness Assessment Program (ARAP) scores are a critical indicator of unit safety climate and culture. Units in the bottom 25 percent of ARAP scores account for about 50 percent of all Class A mishaps and fatalities across the Army, both on and off duty.
- Most on-duty Soldier fatalities occur in Army vehicles and during mission transitions such as movement to or from a range, not the decisive operation itself. Engaged, knowledgeable leaders at every phase of the mission who continue that engagement off duty make a tremendous difference in Soldier safety.